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PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE WORLD
SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
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Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

DRAFT OUTCOME OF THE WORLD SUMMIT FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT: DRAFT DECLARATION AND DRAFT PROGRAMME OF ACTION

Contributions of organs, organizations and programmes of the United Nations system

Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum

Submission by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) has submitted for the consideration of the Preparatory Committee at its third session the Manila Declaration (see annex I) and the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region (see annex II), which were adopted at the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference in Preparation for the World Summit for Social Development, held at Manila on 17 and 18 October 1994. Both documents are presented in the languages of submission.

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Annex I

MANILA DECLARATION ON THE AGENDA FOR ACTION ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE ESCAP REGION

We, the members and associate members of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), attending the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference in Preparation for the World Summit for Social Development, convened at Manila from 12 to 18 October 1994:

Recalling the aims and objectives, areas of concern, and programmes and regional support measures of the Manila Declaration on Social Development Strategy in the ESCAP Region Towards 2000 and Beyond, which was adopted at Manila in October 1991;

Mindful of the centrality of the three core issues of the World Summit for Social Development, namely poverty alleviation, employment expansion and social integration, to human progress;

Affirming our vision of a complementary and mutually reinforcing process of sustained and integrated economic growth and social development in this dynamic region towards the enhancement of the quality of life of all peoples;

Reaffirming that this vision be based on the principles of human dignity, equality of opportunity, transparency of governance, accountability of all institutions, respect for cultural diversity and mutually beneficial cooperation;

Taking cognizance of the fact that the ESCAP region, comprising 59 countries and areas, and accounting for three-fifths of the world's population, is one of the most dynamic regions in the world and as such is poised to contribute to great progress of humanity;

Noting that a firm foundation for peace and development in the twenty-first century is rooted in the dynamism of the economies of many countries of the region, rising public commitment to and active pursuit of an enhanced and equitably shared quality of life, major advances towards broad-based people's participation in governance, a clear determination to peacefully resolve disputes in a spirit of positive and constructive dialogue and mutual respect, and the effective use of regional and subregional mechanisms to promote stability and economic and social development;

Taking note that notwithstanding economic growth, political reforms and structural adjustments in developing countries across Asia and the Pacific in recent years, the region's fundamental social objectives remain to be fully achieved in the light of the emerging challenges to its sustained social development;

Agreeing that the three critical themes of social development, requiring the priority attention of all ESCAP members and associate members, are poverty alleviation, which encompasses both the eradication of absolute poverty and the reduction of relative poverty, employment expansion, which covers the expansion of opportunities for productive employment leading to the reduction of unemployment and underemployment, and social integration, which refers to the enabling of all social groups to live together in productive and cooperative harmony;

Cognizant that the three themes are of great relevance to all the countries of Asia and the Pacific but that, nevertheless, the relative significance of each of those three themes may differ according to the development situation and prospects of each country;

Expressing a firm commitment to accord priority to social development through the provision of adequate resources and the formulation and implementation of effective policies, sound measures and appropriate programmes in the context of development plans;

Urging the international community and its development assistance bodies to provide full support and allocate adequate resources to the region's pursuit of social development;

Recognizing the national competence of members and associate members to formulate and implement their respective policy in social development, mindful of their own social, economic and political conditions;

1. *Adopt* the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region as annexed to this Declaration;

2. *Urge* ESCAP members and associate members to establish and strengthen their respective national mechanisms for the implementation and evaluation of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region;

3. *Recommend* that the Heads of Governments and States attending the World Summit in 1995 take cognizance of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region as a regional plan of action and provide necessary and continuous support to its successful implementation, including, among others, promoting an international economic environment that encourages long-term investments and enterprises which are productive, create jobs, are socially responsible and respect the environment; urging developed countries to honour the already established commitment for official development assistance and provide additional resources through new and innovative sources of financing; and to consider measures for debt reduction;

4. *Call upon* the United Nations and other international organizations to assist in the early implementation of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP region.

Annex II

AGENDA FOR ACTION ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE ESCAP REGION

INTRODUCTION

1. The Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region (hereinafter referred to as the "Agenda") addresses critical social development issues by identifying specific courses of action to be taken by countries of the region, individually and collectively. With this Agenda, the Governments of Asia and the Pacific reaffirm their commitment to the region's social development objectives by adopting a series of specific and time-bound goals, as well as evolving the means for promoting regional and international cooperation in the attainment of those goals. This Agenda has been adopted by the Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference in Preparation for the World Summit for Social Development, which was held in Manila from 12 to 18 October 1994.

2. This Agenda also builds upon the Social Development Strategy for Asia and the Pacific Towards the Year 2000 and Beyond, adopted by the Fourth Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Social Development, convened in Manila in October 1991. The Social Development Strategy provides an overview of the critical social issues in the ESCAP region and proposes broad national and regional policy guidelines in addressing those issues.

3. In addition to the international instruments taken note of in the Social Development Strategy adopted in 1991, this Agenda takes note of the Kuala Lumpur Ministerial Declaration and the Delhi Declaration on Education adopted in 1993, the Jakarta Declaration for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific adopted in June 1994 during the Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Women in Development, the Cairo Programme of Action adopted at the International Conference on Population and Development held in September 1994, and the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States held at Bridgetown in May 1994.

4. This Agenda has been adopted by Governments of the ESCAP region, in anticipation and support of the global initiatives to be considered at the World Summit for Social Development, to be convened by the United Nations in Copenhagen in March 1995. In keeping with the three "core issues" to be addressed by the World Summit for Social Development, the Agenda elaborates on the three themes of poverty alleviation, employment expansion and social integration in terms of specific priorities and actions for the ESCAP region, as follows:

(a) "Poverty alleviation" refers to the eradication of absolute poverty and the reduction of relative poverty;

(b) "Employment expansion" covers the expansion of opportunities for productive employment leading to the reduction of unemployment and underemployment;

(c) "Social integration" refers to the enabling of all social groups to live together in productive and cooperative harmony.

The themes of poverty alleviation, employment expansion and social integration carry great relevance for the countries of Asia and the Pacific, but their scope and significance may differ according to each country's development situation.

5. For many developing countries in the region, the main tasks will remain the eradication of poverty, and the provision of basic social services to the vast majority of their people. These tasks

require focused attention to the needs of social groups whose specific disadvantages and vulnerabilities impede their full participation in development. Further, social integration and employment expansion could alleviate poverty and promote development. It is, however, recognized that several countries have already mounted intensive and well-coordinated poverty eradication measures.

6. In a number of countries in the region where substantial social development arising from economic growth has already been achieved, the further task lies in ensuring the equitable sharing of these gains and thereby strengthening social cohesion. The concern for employment in those countries centres not only on improving the conditions of work and redistributing the benefits equitably, but also in raising labour productivity in the light of rapidly changing technology and rising international competition.

7. Although the relative significance of the three themes may vary among countries in the region, the range of social issues that each country must address is common to all. To facilitate regional dialogue and cooperation, the actions contained in this Agenda are organized according to the common social concerns to be addressed, as identified in the Social Development Strategy. Accordingly, the Governments must pay equal and simultaneous attention to the issues of health, education, shelter and social protection, among others.

8. This Agenda establishes a number of social development goals and targets for the ESCAP region and sets out the means whereby the Governments will pursue those ends. The enabling context includes the broad economic, political and social conditions which are necessary to achieve the above goals. It then identifies the specific social development policies and programmes to address the objectives of the Agenda. These are organized around specific social concerns, with social groups being referred to wherever they are directly relevant to a particular social issue. Finally, the Agenda addresses the means of implementation to be applied at the national, subregional and regional levels and as appropriate, at the international level.

9. This Agenda sets out the course of action to be taken by the countries in the Asian and Pacific region, as agreed by the members and associate members of ESCAP, cognizant that the programme of action to be adopted by the World Summit for Social Development will provide a comprehensive framework for global action. Individual countries will set their own goals within the overall framework of the Agenda and where possible strive to reach them sooner than indicated in the Agenda.

I. AN ENABLING CONTEXT

10. The objective of social development in the ESCAP region can be fully achieved only within a context that ensures international peace and domestic social harmony in accordance with the United Nations Charter, the observance of human rights along with civic responsibilities, governance for promoting social development and sustained and equitable development. Such enabling conditions are not present to the same degree throughout the region. Action to ensure the presence of the necessary enabling conditions constitutes a distinct task in itself if the goals and targets of this Agenda are to be attained.

A. Peace and social harmony

11. Conditions for peace and development are closely interdependent. That interdependence must be observed in relationships among countries as well as among social groups within countries. Both resources and the will for development are bound to prove inadequate so long as countries and social groups perceive immediate threats to their survival and respond by violent or threatening means. Political tension and armed conflict between and within countries must be avoided. Improving the climate for peace and achieving social harmony are themselves means for attaining development. At the same time, Governments, in alleviating poverty, must ensure the participation of all social groups, expand employment and reinforce the achievement of peace, social harmony and national stability.

12. A better environment for peace and stability arising from the end of the cold war will enable the reallocation of military expenditure as appropriate and the optimization of available economic resources for the social requirements of the ESCAP region. Recognizing the importance of that truth, the Governments will, therefore, intensify their efforts to further reduce tensions in the region.

13. There is support for the interdependence of the economic and social, and public and private spheres of activities and policies by the Governments of the ESCAP region so that they become more mutually supportive in the interest of the well-being and dignity of human kind in addressing the underlying causes of poverty, unemployment and social disintegration.

14. In support of social harmony, the Governments recommit themselves to the continuing effort to reduce geographic, sectoral, gender, ethnic and other inequities in the distribution of resources, opportunities and benefits of development through the promotion and strengthening of appropriate cultural, moral, spiritual and traditional values. They will exert every effort to eliminate legal and other forms of social discrimination and will take the initiative in mobilizing and sustaining processes of local conflict resolution that address the sources of social violence.

B. Human rights and civic responsibilities

15. The Governments reaffirm their common conviction of the importance of the realization of the Declaration on the Right to Development[1] and that policies, plans and programmes to advance social development can ultimately succeed only in a context that upholds the dignity of the individual, provides for the full participation of all social groups, and acknowledges that the proper role of the State is to serve the needs of society.

16. To that end, the Governments will, within their legal and administrative framework and other institutions, protect and encourage respect for diversity of opinion and for full and free participation in civic affairs without distinction as to race, gender, language, religion or other social affiliation.

17. The Governments will promote measures for the full and free participation of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups in civic affairs. Action will be taken to redress inequalities in opportunity encountered by those groups, including, where appropriate, inequalities with respect to their representation in elective bodies and participation in government service, at the national, provincial

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[1] Adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 41/128 of 4 December 1986.

and local levels. In that effort, particular emphasis will be accorded to the participation of women in civic affairs.

18. Cultural values stressing social responsibility and collective action are a common heritage throughout the region and can be a force for development by applying the socially integrative aspects of those traditions as a constructive means of supporting national policies, plans and programmes for social development.

C. Governance for promoting social development

19. Good governance for social development requires effectiveness in the administration of social justice and entitlements by the State. That requirement calls for a concerted effort to ensure the reliability and integrity of the legislative, administrative and judicial branches of the State through accountability of action, transparency in decision-making and excellence of personnel.

20. Equally important, good governance for social development requires the empowerment of the poor, the disadvantaged, and the marginalized and excluded sections of society to plan and act on their own behalf. The Governments will, therefore, facilitate the active participation of all social groups in development policy-making, planning and programming to improve the effectiveness of social development intervention in meeting the people's needs and help ensure the equitable distribution of development benefits.

21. The Governments will encourage and implement decentralization and devolution of responsibility and authority, including fiscal authority, in the planning and delivery of social services. Relevant institutions will be empowered to assume increasing responsibility and authority for social development.

22. The Governments will pursue constructive cooperation with non-governmental organizations (NGOs), private enterprise and the people in general to ensure that social development policies and programmes are directed to meet the aims and aspirations of all social groups. Through such cooperation and through strengthening the means of effective popular participation, government can be brought closer to the people, improving its performance and ensuring that the people's concerns are taken into full consideration in policy-making, planning, programming, implementation and evaluation.

D. Sustained and equitable development

23. As widely observed throughout Asia and the Pacific, over the long term, development must be supported by sustained economic growth. Only a dynamic economy can mobilize the necessary resources to permit the redistribution of income and wealth and the provision of basic social services demanded by the broad masses of the people throughout the region.

24. It is recognized that economic growth in itself is not sufficient to realize the qualitative social changes demanded by the people. Deliberate policy interventions are required of the Governments to ensure that economic development proceeds in a fair and equitable manner to raise the people's quality of life. At the same time, it is recognized that attention to the social dimension of development invariably improves the climate for sustained economic development.

25. The Governments will, therefore, review their macroeconomic policies and adjust them as appropriate to ensure a sustained and accelerated growth rate with continued improvement in the people's quality of life. This will include action to increase domestic savings and investment, as well as investment in human resources development and provision of infrastructure, maintain price stability and balance-of-payments equilibrium, and improve levels of productivity and employment, while ensuring an equitable distribution of income.

26. Similarly, the Governments will continuously review and adjust their sectoral economic policies to ensure that their countries derive the maximum gains from trade, respond effectively to changes in world demand, adapt to new technologies and thereby sustain and enhance productive employment, and consequently alleviate poverty and promote social integration.

27. An efficient infrastructural system assists economic growth and poverty eradication through the provision of services that respond to effective demand. Cognizant of its benefits, national policy makers and the international community are called upon to consider and allocate sufficient resources towards its establishment and maintenance.

28. In designing and implementing economic adjustments to accommodate changing market conditions and other circumstances, the Governments will take into explicit account any adverse social effects that may be entailed and will devise complementary policies to minimize or offset those adverse effects, particularly on the poor and other disadvantaged and vulnerable groups.

29. In view of the predominantly supportive influence of an openly competitive world economy on social development, the Governments will seek, through cooperative means, to generate an international economic environment that sustains the momentum of liberalization in the global markets for goods and services, including finance and technology.

E. Creating a favourable international economic environment

30. Economic growth is essential but not sufficient to ensure social development, and strategies should focus on "societies" and not just "economies". The reduction and elimination of widespread poverty, the increase of productive employment and the reduction of unemployment, and the enhancement of social integration requires that economic growth integrates social considerations and that the international economic environment affords sufficient opportunity to foster economic growth and social development.

31. The forging of genuine international economic cooperation and solidarity for removing disparities among countries calls for multilateral commitment to improve the functioning of the international economy.

32. The least developed, land-locked and small island developing states, which form a significant proportion of the countries in the ESCAP region, need to be especially recognized for their intrinsic vulnerability to changes in the international trade environment. In view of this, measures should be taken at the multilateral level to strengthen existing arrangements with their trading partners and devise new measures, where necessary, to mitigate the adverse impact of unexpected and sudden

changes in the international trade regimes, especially with regard to their respective areas of specialization.

33. The burden of all types of external debt and debt servicing poses a severe difficulty for the developing nations as they draw resources from their much-needed social programmes. The problem is very acute for the least developed countries, low-income and lower middle-income countries and requires ameliorative action. Initiatives should be taken, if necessary, to reduce the debt burden of developing countries, particularly that of the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries to a level which would allow the revival of social and economic development.

34. Macroeconomic stability should not be pursued at the cost of the needs and interests of the poor and vulnerable sections of the population as this may well compromise social stability. In order to do this:

(i) Structural adjustment programmes must correspond to the economic and social conditions of individual countries and should be designed realistically to reflect the inevitable time lags in the effectiveness of supply-side responses in developing countries;

(ii) Decisions concerning adjustment should include a full examination of alternative ways of securing macroeconomic stability, structural change and improved efficiency from the perspective of social equity;

(iii) Structural adjustment programmes rooted in accepted national priorities, concerns and aspirations should become development-oriented, so as to enhance opportunities, particularly for the poor and unemployed;

International financial institutions should bear the above considerations in mind while suggesting macroeconomic reforms for national governments.

35. Developed countries are urged to accelerate progress towards meeting their commitment to devote 0.7 per cent of their gross national product to official development assistance (ODA), and their other commitments, especially to the least developed, land-locked and island developing countries.

36. In specific areas where national action will have important global components, such as the prevention of crime and trafficking in illegal drugs or limiting the transmission of communicable diseases, support should be provided by additional international financial resources.

37. The Governments will work together to ensure continuous flows of humanitarian assistance through their national territories.

38. An equitable enabling economic environment requires a renewed commitment to support the interests of the developing countries and to pay special attention to the problems of the least developed countries.

II. ACTION ON MAJOR SOCIAL ISSUES

39. The broad range of interrelated social issues confronting Asia and the Pacific is preventing large sections of society, particularly the disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, from realizing their hopes and aspirations for substantial and sustained improvement in their quality of life. To address those social issues effectively, as highlighted in the Social Development Strategy, a forceful, coordinated, multisectoral initiative aimed at dealing with the situation at its roots is required.

40. All three of the themes to be addressed by the World Summit for Social Development, poverty alleviation, employment expansion and social integration, are directly relevant to all the developing countries in Asia and the Pacific, without exception. Poverty, however, remains the most critical of those concerns in the majority of countries in the region. In fact, for most countries of the region, growth in productive employment and enhancement of social integration are viewed, along with many other factors, as means of addressing the scourge of poverty.

41. With the overriding issue of poverty in mind, the Governments commit themselves to eradicate absolute poverty from the region by 2010 and work towards the reduction of relative poverty. In preparation for the introduction of effective poverty alleviation programmes towards that end, those Governments that have not already done so will take immediate action to identify and target the absolute poor. In designing and implementing anti-poverty policies, plans and programmes to achieve that fundamental target, the Governments will take into account the lessons of experience in dealing with poverty in the region. That experience points to the importance of: (a) organizing and empowering the poor themselves; (b) developing the human resources of the poor; (c) enabling the poor to take up self-employment and labour-absorbing activities and technologies; (d) designing social protection schemes to meet the basic needs of the poor; (e) helping poverty stricken areas improve their productive and living conditions by integrating sectoral and regional programmes; (f) mobilizing community funds and forces; and (g) taking concerted and congruent action by government agencies and the community.

42. In adopting this Agenda, the Governments have reached a consensus for action on the region's critical social issues, an appreciation that appropriate action on those social issues will address problems faced by specific groups. That consensus expresses the Governments' recommitment to attain the social development goals and targets specified in earlier global and regional instruments, including the Social Development Strategy, and furthermore establishes their commitment to: (a) review the goals and targets specified in earlier international instruments with a view to adapting them to the regional, subregional and national circumstances; (b) set goals and targets for critical social concerns where they had not been identified earlier; and (c) introduce specific measures to address the region's pressing social issues, with particular reference to disadvantaged groups.

43. With this Agenda, the Governments commit themselves to the attainment of a series of specific social development goals and targets. For each agreed action on which no regional goal or target is indicated in this Agenda, each Government will set its own, in keeping with its national circumstances, with a view to initiating immediate action in a sustained effort towards its early attainment.

A. Population

44. Mindful of the practical relevance of population to development, the Governments will promote the voluntary use of effective measures of family planning throughout the region taking into consideration the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the principles of the respective societies, cultural values and religions. They will also take measures which will, by 2000, reduce maternal mortality rates to half of the 1990 rates with a further reduction by one half by 2015. While the realization of these targets will have different implications for countries with different 1990 rates, all countries will reduce maternal mortality and morbidity to levels where they no longer constitute a public health problem.

45. In the light of relevant international declarations, the Governments are encouraged to take measures to empower women to participate in all levels of decision-making involving policies and programmes affecting their health throughout their life cycles, particularly their reproductive health. The goals set by the Governments should promote good health and respect the dignity and legitimate rights of all persons. Adequate information on the safety and efficacy of family planning methods should be made widely accessible within the framework of respective cultural and religious norms.

46. The Governments, in their development strategies, will take into full consideration their countries' changing demographic profiles in relation to other socio-economic changes to ensure, in particular, that all policies are implemented to respond fully to the needs of specific population groups experiencing rapid growth in numbers.

B. Health

47. In the light of the Declaration of Alma-Ata[2] and recalling the Plan of Action for Implementing the World Declaration on the Survival, Protection and Development of Children in the 1990s (hereafter referred to as the "Plan of Action for Children"),[3] and the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the Governments recommit themselves to the attainment of health for all by 2000 and the other goals enunciated in the above instruments. Towards those ends, they will re-examine their development priorities to ensure full access to primary health care to all people by 2000.

48. In particular, the Governments will actively advocate and support those measures in preventive health care that will improve the quality of life of the people, especially those with the greatest needs, including children, women and people with disabilities, excluded social groups and groups at significant risk. Towards that end, the countries of the region will:

(a) Reduce infant mortality rates to 40 or less per 1,000 live births by 2010 and to 35 or less per 1,000 live births by 2015;

(b) By 2000, reduce under-five mortality rates to 70 per 1,000 live births or by a third of their 1990 levels and, by 2015, to 45 or less per 1,000 live births;

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[2] Adopted on 12 September 1978 at the World Health Organization/United Nations Children's Fund International Conference on Primary Health Care.

[3] Adopted at the World Summit for Children, held in New York on 30 September 1990.

(c) By 2000, reach the goals set in the Plan of Action for Children with respect to immunization, the eradication of polio and neonatal tetanus, and the reduction of measles, diarrhoea and acute respiratory infections;

(d) Aim to achieve a life expectancy at birth greater than 70 years by 2005 and greater than 75 years by 2015, although countries with the highest levels of mortality should aim to achieve life expectancies at birth of 65 and 70 years by 2005 and 2015, respectively.

49. All possible steps will be taken to promote public awareness about the human immunodeficiency virus/acquired immune deficiency syndrome (HIV/AIDS) and drugs and to control the spread of HIV/AIDS and drug abuse through educational programmes and support measures.

50. The Governments will ensure that by 2000 malnutrition will be reduced to half of its 1990 level in every country where it has a significant presence. They will also ensure that the other nutrition goals and targets contained in the Plan of Action for Children are fulfilled, including the reduction of micronutrient deficiencies, reduction of low birth weight and promotion of breastfeeding. Towards the achievement of those goals and targets, they will evolve nutrition and health standards and monitoring systems, especially focusing on the needs of specific disadvantaged and vulnerable groups.

51. They will augment the infrastructure and personnel devoted to basic health care, with special attention to programmes that are specifically designed to reach poor and isolated communities. Governments should institute the concept of Health for All, which means health for the people and by the people. Governments will ensure the provision of basic health-care products and services, such as periodic medical examinations and follow-up of chronic diseases, to the disadvantaged and vulnerable sections of society. For that purpose, indigenous medical practice too will be fostered and service delivery assisted.

52. The Governments will take all measures to avert the spread of serious infectious diseases.

53. Immediate action will be taken by the Governments to prevent the further spread of HIV/AIDS. National, subregional and regional policies, plans and programmes will be formulated and implemented to: (a) promote behavioural change through public information and health, with special reference to high-risk groups; (b) provide support services for those already afflicted, ensuring that there is no discrimination against them; (c) ensure the safety of blood and blood products; and (d) eradicate sexual exploitation, especially of women and children who are most vulnerable.

54. The Governments will also take immediate action to formulate and implement effective strategies to control the supply of and demand for drugs and narcotics. At the community level, measures should be taken to control effectively the demand for drugs. Treatment and rehabilitation of abusers should be given high priority. Community programmes for youth, likely to have a positive impact on the problem of drug addiction, should be strongly supported by the Governments and international agencies.

55. The Governments will enact and implement legislation and regulations to promote health and safety at work, in public places and in the neighbourhood.

C. Education

56. Recalling the aims and objectives of the World Declaration on Education for All,[4] the ESCAP *Guidelines for Action in Support of Education for All in the ESCAP Region*,[5] the Plan of Action for Children and the Jakarta Plan of Action on Human Resources Development in the ESCAP Region, as revised in 1994[6] (hereafter referred to as the "Jakarta Plan of Action, 1994"), the Governments commit themselves to attaining the goal of basic education for all in the region by 2000.

57. As an essential preliminary step towards that goal, the countries of the region will, by 2000, halve the levels of illiteracy in their countries from those prevailing in 1990, with emphasis on female literacy. Special or non-conventional programmes will be designed and implemented to impart literacy and basic science and technology skills to specific target groups among the adult population.

58. The Governments will mobilize resources to ensure universal access to basic education by 2010 where this has not yet been achieved. They will, by 2000, ensure that at least 80 per cent of primary school-age children complete primary education. Towards that end, emphasis will be placed on reducing current educational disparities between boys and girls, and the quality of education will be upgraded through improved teaching methods, curricular development, teacher training and educational support systems irrespective of gender.

59. Educational programmes that address the specific causes of low enrolment, high dropout rates and poor performance among specific disadvantaged groups will be given high priority, so that socially and geographically disadvantaged populations have access to knowledge not only through formal and non-formal modes of education, but also through the production of non-conventional institutional mechanisms such as open learning and diversified approaches to education.

60. The Governments will, by 2010, facilitate access to secondary education for all who qualify. Expansion of secondary and tertiary education will be pursued, but not at the cost of improvements in the scope and quality of basic education. At the same time, existing curricula for secondary education will be redesigned, as necessary, to emphasize skills for independent learning, critical thinking, effective communication and the application of knowledge to local problems and conditions.

61. In conformity with the goals expressed in the Jakarta Declaration for the Advancement of Women in Asia and the Pacific,[7] the Governments will introduce measures to promote the attainment, by 2005, of at least equal participation rates for girls in primary and secondary education. They will also promote increased access for girls and women to higher education, especially in fields that have traditionally not been open to females.

62. They will promote vocational training that enables workers to respond effectively to changing labour market conditions and entrepreneurial opportunities in an increasingly competitive global

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[4] Adopted by the World Conference on Education for All: Meeting Basic Learning Needs, held at Jomtien, Thailand, in March 1990.

[5] ST/ESCAP/1016 (New York, 1991).

[6] See Commission resolution 50/7 of 13 April 1994, annex.

[7] Adopted by the Second Asian and Pacific Ministerial Conference on Women in Development, held in Jakarta in June 1994.

economy. They will also ensure that vocational training is made directly relevant to employment requirements by involving business enterprises more closely in the planning, conduct, and evaluation of training programmes, and it should be a lifetime commitment for all workers. Particular attention will be given to the vocational training of disadvantaged and vulnerable groups, including those with disabilities.

D. Employment

63. In fulfilment of the aims and objectives of the International Development Strategy for the Fourth United Nations Development Decade, the Governments will pursue a course of economic development that is consistent with maximizing productive and freely chosen employment. For that purpose, it is important to pursue, in the context of patterns of growth and investment, plans that are effectively employment intensive and directed at those sectors with the greatest scope for absorbing labour. Considering that unemployment has taken on a global magnitude that sometimes is beyond national capacity, international action and assistance are necessary for creating job opportunities.

64. The Governments will, as appropriate, promote employment by supporting the informal sector, including small-scale and cottage industries and services, especially in rural areas. Measures to be introduced to that end will include: (a) revision of laws and regulations that restrict or otherwise hinder informal sector activities; (b) development and encouragement of the development of the informal sector; (c) provision of infrastructure and essential services to support informal sector activities; (d) support of non-governmental organizations and other entities that provide technology, business training and access to credit for informal sector undertakings; and (e) encouragement to financial and other institutions in opening loan-windows for soft loans to respond to the needs of the informal sector and small business activity.

65. Consistent with national circumstances, the Governments will support small-farm self-employment by: (a) promoting the income of small farmers and traditional fishermen, through the enhancement of their productivity and improvement of access to markets, and (b) supporting the economic security of small farmers through the diversification of their productive activities, especially non-farm employment. Those policies and programmes, as called for by national circumstances, will include: (a) investments in irrigation, rural electrification, transport and communication, and other infrastructure; (b) improved access to land and farm credit; (c) technical extension; (d) agricultural price stabilization and appropriate support mechanisms; (e) farmers' training and education; and (f) promotion of cooperatives.

66. In most Pacific and Indian Ocean island States, marine resources are one of the main sources of income and employment. Government development initiatives will be directed at supporting national marine resource development in a sustainable manner. Policy reform and support are necessary for them. Other support could include investment and training support to fisher folk and fishing communities and research on marine resources.

67. To enhance the income-earning capabilities of the rural and urban poor, the Governments will, by 2000, determine the feasibility, scope and appropriate modes of land reform in both rural and

urban areas in accordance with efficient land use, and will pursue those reforms within a predetermined time-frame.

68. They will promote efficiency and flexibility in their labour markets by supporting the development of labour-market institutions that provide job seekers with open information about job opportunities, and employers with ready information on available workers, and by giving full play to collective bargaining between employers and workers, in keeping with national circumstances. The role of forums comprising government agencies, employers' associations and workers' organizations to facilitate conflict resolution and to improve productivity and mobility in labour markets will be encouraged.

69. Working conditions in the formal and informal sectors will be improved by: (a) encouraging mutual support and social protection through such means as cooperatives and workers' associations; (b) enforcing reasonable and cost-effective standards of occupational health and safety; and (c) promoting awareness of workers' rights through workers' education.

70. The Governments will, by 2000, promulgate laws to prevent the employment and exploitation of child labour, where such legislation is not already in place. At the same time, they will reinforce the effectiveness of law enforcement agencies and promote the formation of community networks to ensure effective implementation of that legislation. Communities will be educated to counter culture traits that support the employment and exploitation of children.

71. The status of women in the labour force will be enhanced through the promulgation and enforcement, by 2010, of legislation and regulations to eliminate wage differentials between women and men engaged in the same work, where such differentials exist. At the same time, working conditions for women employed in the formal and informal sectors will be improved through the enactment and enforcement of minimum working standards, maternity protection schemes and an environment that supports women's equal and full participation in employment, compatible with their family life, including managerial and supervisory functions and collective bargaining.

72. Employment, preferably in the open labour market, is fundamental to the economic independence of persons with disabilities and to providing social recognition and opportunities to social integration. The Governments will make efforts through awareness campaigns to remove physical, social and attitudinal barriers. Laws and regulations will be enacted to prohibit discrimination in the employment of persons with disabilities. Employers will be encouraged through the provision of subsidies to make reasonable adjustments in the work place to accommodate persons with disabilities.

73. The Governments, particularly in countries encountering large-scale labour migration, will enhance the provision of information, assistance, protection and equality of treatment of migrant workers, especially women. In respect of international labour migration, source and host countries will take steps, to safeguard the welfare of migrant workers, especially women, in compliance with national law.

74. Directly, as well as in cooperation with the private sector and non-governmental organizations the Governments will explore innovative ways of expanding productive employment, including (a) the promotion of capital-saving, labour-absorbing technologies; (b) the encouragement of activities that protect the environment or augment natural resources; (c) adjustment in productive structures and promotion of employment in the service sector; and (d) the promotion of human resources development, focusing on skill development and other activities to improve the quality of workers such as literacy, education, primary health care and social protection.

75. In cooperation with non-governmental organizations and the private sector, the Governments will introduce special training programmes to assist those who should be given special consideration, such as older workers, persons with disabilities, retrenched public-sector employees, other workers affected by economic restructuring and workers returning from overseas, in acquiring relevant skills and rejoining the productive employment stream to find continuation of employment.

E. Shelter

76. The Governments recommit themselves to the goals contained in the Global Strategy for Shelter to the Year 2000,[8] which firmly establishes the human right to shelter and the fundamental obligation of the State to assume responsibility for the protection and improvement of housing conditions and neighbourhoods.

77. They will facilitate the provision of adequate shelter for all by 2000, as put forward in the Global Strategy, recognizing that adequate shelter means shelter that is affordable, has secure tenure, is structurally stable, is served by appropriate infrastructure and provides access to employment and community services. Immediate attention will be given to the development of housing and land use that promotes inter-generational contact, social cohesion and mutual support, and to the introduction of measures to promote barrier-free built environments that facilitate the free movement of persons with disabilities and elderly persons.

78. They will strive to provide access to safe drinking water and sanitary means of human waste disposal by all by 2000. They will ensure the provision of adequate energy supply, sewerage and solid waste disposal infrastructure in all settlements by 2025.

79. They will relax regulatory constraints to provide full opportunities for the participation of private enterprise, non-governmental organizations, local governments and independent builders to contribute financial, physical and human resources towards the availability of affordable shelter for all.

80. Shelter-related policies, including those relating to budgetary priorities, rent, credit and interest rates, tenure and ownership, land taxation, zoning, utilities and building regulations, will be revised as necessary by the Governments to ensure that those policies are supportive of the goal of shelter for all. Research and development will be encouraged in order to generate construction materials and methods that are low-cost, disaster-resistant, environmentally sound and appropriate to indigenous cultural values.

[8] Adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 43/181 of 20 December 1988.

F. Environment

81. The Governments recommit themselves to the aims and objectives expressed in the Ministerial Declaration on Environmentally Sound and Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific[9] and Agenda 21: Programme of Action for Sustainable Development.[10] They do so based on their recognition of the close nexus between environmental and other social concerns, particularly poverty and population. Taking into account the global impact of some ecological disasters, the possibilities of supplementing national plans with regional and subregional plans and programmes will be explored to provide for universal ecological security.

82. With a view to ensuring sustainable development, the Governments will put in place, as soon as possible, comprehensive, time-bound plans for the protection, conservation and sustainable use of their natural resource bases, taking into account the needs of those who depend upon them for their livelihood. The need to address the disadvantaged and vulnerable sections of society and to eradicate poverty shall be the cornerstone of such plans. In that context, the Governments will encourage polluter-pays policies.

83. The Governments will, as soon as possible, formulate plans for sustainable land and marine management supportive of the welfare of local and indigenous communities and develop environmentally friendly actions in their projects. Special attention will be given to the identification and promotion of environmentally sound and sustainable survival strategies, including enforcement of the property rights of local and indigenous communities as well as relocation and resettlement from resource-degraded areas, as a means of encouraging poor communities to adopt ecologically viable lifestyles.

84. They will, as soon as possible, put in place measures to enforce the environmentally sound management of toxic and hazardous products and wastes. Those measures will address the means of minimizing the generation of toxic and hazardous products and wastes, including nuclear waste, and preventing their illegal international traffic. Also by then, appropriate environmental and health safeguards will be included in all national development plans and programmes.

G. Disasters

85. Keeping in mind General Assembly resolution 44/236 proclaiming the 1990s as the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction, the Governments will, by 2000, have in place comprehensive strategies and specific contingency plans for the delivery of social services in the aftermath of natural disasters relevant to their circumstances, including typhoons, floods, landslides, tidal waves, droughts, earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. Governments will put in place, where they do not already exist, comprehensive national disaster preparedness and management plans by 2000. Those strategies and plans will be based on accurate assessments of the risk of natural disasters in particular areas.

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[9] Adopted by the Ministerial-level Conference on Environment and Development in Asia and the Pacific, held in Bangkok in October 1990.

[10] Adopted by the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 1992.

86. All development plans and programmes will, by 2000, include measures for natural disaster avoidance, including measures to ensure earthquake-resistant construction, flood-plain control, drought mitigation and the avoidance of irreversible soil erosion, as appropriate to national circumstances.

87. To achieve those disaster prevention and response goals, the Governments will strengthen their capacity to mitigate the effects of natural disasters through: (a) risk assessment; (b) risk zoning; (c) enforcement of building codes; (d) early-warning systems; (e) evacuation plans; (f) emergency supplies and budgetary mechanisms for emergency assistance; (g) improved food distribution networks; (h) short-term employment plans for disaster-stricken households and communities; and (i) relocation and resettlement.

88. In view of the potentially massive impact of disasters on particular countries, especially smaller and poorer countries as well as densely populated countries, and also in view of the frequently transnational impact of major natural disasters, the possibilities will be explored of supplementing national disaster contingency plans with regional and subregional plans and programmes to provide for collective security against natural disasters.

H. Crime

89. In conformity with the United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Administration of Juvenile Justice (The Beijing Rules)[11] and the United Nations Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency (The Riyadh Guidelines),[12] the Governments reaffirm their conviction that crime is at root, both in its causes and effects, a social issue, and that adequate responses can be framed only within the context of comprehensive programmes for social development, addressing in particular the means of supporting the family as the primary institution for the socialization of its members, providing a sound basic education for all, and promoting high levels of productive employment.

90. In their effort to prevent crime, especially juvenile crime and delinquency, the Governments will: (a) research the causes of crime and the effectiveness of anti-crime programmes; (b) strengthen community institutions, particularly those geared directly to youth, and increase youth participation in those institutions; (c) enlist the family in providing an atmosphere supportive of the development of young people; (d) enhance the content of both formal and non-formal education to increase its relevance to livelihood opportunities, sensitivity to human rights and gender issues and support of family life; and (e) work with folk arts, cultural traditions and the mass media to promote positive social values and socially responsible lifestyles with an appreciation of cultural diversity among the young.

91. The Governments will provide for the special needs of young delinquents and offenders, especially females, through: (a) the training of law enforcement personnel to fulfil constructive social functions in dealing with juveniles; (b) the setting up of special juvenile crime prevention, enforcement and justice mechanisms to deal with young offenders; and (c) the improved economic

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[11] Adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 40/33 of 29 November 1985.

[12] Adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 45/112 of 14 December 1990.

and social rehabilitation of young offenders through non-institutional, community, peer-group and family-based approaches for their reintegration into society.

92. The Governments will promulgate and strictly enforce legislation to curb the growing incidence of crimes of violence against women and children, including domestic violence, rape, forced prostitution and the sale of and trafficking in human beings. The Governments will also undertake wide-ranging community education to raise awareness of the unacceptability of violence against women. At the same time, the Governments will put in place and strengthen counselling and support services to alleviate the effects of such crimes on the survivors and work towards their social integration by providing opportunities for their full employment.

93. The Governments will intensify their efforts at the national, subregional and regional levels to deal with the transnational aspects of organized criminality, especially with respect to drug-related crimes, the sale of and trafficking in people and illegal trafficking in arms and armaments.

94. The Governments recognize that the abuse of drugs and alcohol, forced and child prostitution and other illegal practices destructive of the family and marriage can lead to the disintegration of families and increased incidence of crime. The Governments, therefore, commit themselves to fight such social evils, enforce appropriate legislation in that regard and alleviate the effects of such crimes on the victims.

I. Social protection

95. Consistent with the Guiding Principles for Developmental Social Welfare Policies and Programmes in the Near Future,[13] the Governments will, by 2000, formulate an overall policy framework that will accord priority to social protection for all, in accordance with the prevailing standards of society and within available resources. That framework will include viable measures for social protection covering unemployment, illness, disability and old age. Among other means of comprehensive social protection to be considered will be emergency employment schemes, food security schemes, targeted subsidies and community-based care and rehabilitation.

96. In the spirit of the ILO Convention Concerning Minimum Standards of Social Security, the Governments are encouraged to strengthen and broaden the coverage of their formal social security systems, where such systems already exist, and consider alternative systems where formal systems are not viable, in order to ensure that social security coverage is extended to all who are eligible for it. Attention will be focused, in particular, on extending social security coverage to workers in the informal sector and on encouraging self-provision to avoid long-term dependency on government support.

97. In pursuance of the Agenda for Action for the Asian and Pacific Decade of Disabled Persons, 1993-2002,[14] and in the spirit of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities,[15] the Governments will, as soon as possible, institute effective measures to provide

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[13] Endorsed by the General Assembly in resolution 42/125 of 7 December 1987.

[14] Adopted by the Commission in resolution 49/6 of 29 April 1993.

[15] Adopted by the General Assembly in resolution 48/96 of 20 December 1993.

people with disabilities access to existing services in the areas of education, health care, training for productive employment and other social services to ensure their integration into the mainstream of social development. At the same time, they will introduce measures, where such are not already in place, to bring the active elderly into the economic and social mainstream and to meet the basic needs of the rural and urban elderly who lack social security. Policies and programmes will be set in place to provide local-level and community-based support services for elderly persons.

98. The Governments will, as early as possible, introduce fiscal or other incentives to support the family as the basic provider of social protection to its dependent members. The Governments will promote community-based programmes and services for the care and protection of children, people with disabilities, elderly persons and other disadvantaged groups. This will be in addition to the direct benefits afforded to specific disadvantaged and vulnerable groups. Legislation and regulatory provisions extending fiscal and service-related support to care-givers of elderly dependants and persons with disabilities, as well as parents or guardians of children, will be put in place. Consistent with the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, necessary facilities and support will be provided to ensure care for the children of economically active and single-parent families and children under special circumstances. Priority will be provided to poor female-maintained households in government assistance schemes, including income-generating rural and urban development programmes.

J. Family

99. The Governments recognize the crucial role of the family in achieving the aims and objectives of the Manila Declaration on the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region. In view of the rising challenges to the role of the family in the ESCAP region, there is an urgent need to strengthen the family as a social institution.

100. Governments should, therefore, help provide an environment supportive of strengthening the institution of the family and mutual respect within the family.

III. MEANS OF IMPLEMENTATION

101. In considering the implementation of this Agenda, the Governments recognize that the task of social development is, first and foremost, a national responsibility, to be supported by regional and subregional, as well as international, initiatives as appropriate. How they aim to attain the goals and targets agreed upon in this Agenda is, in the final analysis, a matter for national decision, to be reached within the context of regional and subregional as well as international cooperation. Drawing on regional experience and building on the points of regional consensus earlier reached in the Social Development Strategy, this section presents the means that the Governments, within their differing national circumstances, will apply towards achieving those goals and targets.

102. This Agenda assumes the prior existence in every country of an established governmental apparatus responsible for the planning and implementation of social development programmes. The

points of agreement referred to here are, therefore, confined to means of further strengthening that apparatus, including its interaction with other national-level actors for social development as well as international support mechanisms.

A. Planning and target-setting

103. The goals and targets set forth in this Agenda will be reflected in national development policies and plans and, where appropriate, in the law. All programmes formulated to implement those policies and plans will place priority on the improvement of the quality of life of the poor and other disadvantaged and vulnerable social groups. They will be periodically reviewed and appropriate institutional arrangements will be made to carry out effective planning, implementation and monitoring.

B. Mobilization of enablers

104. The convergence of social development efforts will be a common objective of the State and its agencies, non-governmental organizations, employers and workers, and local communities. Through intersectoral consultation and coordination, the Governments will take the initiative in formulating clear priorities and ensuring that the respective strengths of all partner institutions are utilized to the best advantage. Consultative mechanisms involving the different sectors will be established to take into explicit account the inputs of non-governmental organizations and other enablers in the planning, financing and implementation of social development programmes.

C. Financing social development

105. The Governments recognize that the Agenda can yield tangible results only if it is underpinned by resources sufficient to permit its implementation. Mobilizing those resources, however, will require a commitment to rethink and revise financial priorities both by the countries themselves and within the donor community. To that end, the Governments will review and revise their budgetary priorities to accord with the priorities set out in this Agenda.

106. New and innovative sources of financing should be explored, including the possibility of establishing a special fund entitled "International Fund for Social Development" to make available additional resources for the implementation of this Programme of Action. The administration of any fund would be decided through the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council.

107. The Governments will encourage private business, financial institutions, non-governmental organizations, and local governments and communities to place their resources in the service of the Agenda by opening opportunities for reasonable competition in the delivery of social services, while ensuring effective coordination, transparency and accountability.

108. In line with their action to promote decentralization and devolution of administrative and fiscal authority, the Governments will strengthen the ability of local authorities to mobilize resources and will support them in aligning their priorities with national social development priorities.

109. It is recommended that the Heads of Governments and States attending the World Summit in 1995 take cognizance of the Agenda for Action on Social Development in the ESCAP Region as a regional plan of action and provide necessary and continuous support to its successful implementation, including, among other matters: promoting an international economic environment that encourages long-term investment and enterprises which are productive, create jobs, are socially responsible and respect the environment; urging developed countries to honour the already established commitment for official development assistance and provide additional resources through new and innovative sources of financing; and considering measures for debt reduction.

D. Upgrading of national personnel

110. The Governments will improve the professional capabilities of personnel engaged in the planning and implementation of social development programmes through such means as enhanced opportunities for training, re-training and advanced training. They will promote initiative and commitment by appropriate incentives for superior performance, improve working conditions and provide greater freedom to introduce innovative ideas.

111. Training activities for personnel from the government, non-governmental and private sectors will include techniques for raising the awareness of marginalized groups with regard to their rights and entitlements and their potential for self-help, and for raising the productivity and diversity of economic activities of own-account workers in marginalized communities.

E. Regional, subregional and international support

112. It is clear that, especially in the poorest countries of the region, national efforts and resources alone will not suffice to permit the attainment of the goals and targets set out in this Agenda. The Governments, therefore, call on developed countries and international financial institutions to provide a substantially enhanced contribution to the promotion of social development in the ESCAP region, with specific reference to the goals and targets contained in this Agenda. The developed countries are, in particular, reminded of their standing commitment for official development assistance, as mentioned in paragraph 35, and they are urged to consider programmes directed to meet the goals and targets set forth in this Agenda.

113. The Governments call on all international and regional organizations to intensify their efforts in providing technical, advisory and other assistance in the planning and implementation of national efforts to attain the goals contained in this Agenda. As the regional commission for Asia and the Pacific, ESCAP has a particular role in this regard including facilitating the exchange of experiences. The Governments also call on ESCAP to design programmes for regional and subregional cooperation in human resources development in implementation of the Agenda, with special emphasis on the training of public sector administrators. The Governments will participate in technical exchanges on policy and programme matters related to the implementation of the Agenda.

114. The Governments call upon the United Nations and its system at the country level to increase its support in the strengthening of national capacity and mechanisms for follow-up planning and implementation of the Agenda.

115. The Governments will cooperate and assist in research on social issues of critical concern at the regional and subregional levels, with a view to strengthening policy and programme development. Establishment of regional and subregional social development data banks would also be considered in this regard. The Governments will also participate in technical cooperation activities pertaining to research and development of technologies for improving the quality of life of the poor and other disadvantaged and vulnerable groups.

116. Recognizing the differences among the various subregions of the ESCAP region, the Governments agree that it would be useful to disaggregate the regional goals and targets contained in this Agenda into subregional ones, in accordance with the particular characteristics and conditions in each subregion. The Governments, therefore, urge the respective subregional organizations to extend their support to the effective implementation of this Agenda by detailing their subregional goals and targets in conformity with the Agenda, and giving commensurate technical and other support to the execution of national programmes in support of the Agenda. In this connection, the Governments welcome the recent initiative taken by the countries of the Pacific with the Suva Declaration on Sustainable Human Development in the Pacific[16] and by the South Asian countries with the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) "Report of the Independent South Asian Commission on Poverty Alleviation: Meeting the Challenge".

117. With regard to the Pacific and small island developing States of the region, the Governments note their vulnerable situation, as highlighted in the World Bank Overview of Pacific Island Economies Report 1993, and agree to the need for special measures to assist them in meeting the goals agreed upon in this Agenda for Action.

118. In order to facilitate practical regional coordination between the Governments, private sector and non-governmental organizations, a linkage between them and consultative mechanisms to promote dialogue regarding planning, implementation and evaluation of the Agenda will be strengthened.

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[16] Adopted at the Regional Meeting of Ministers of Planning and Senior Planners on Human Development Strategies in the Pacific, held in Suva in May 1994, and adopted by the Forum in Brisbane in August 1994.